



Kansas State University Libraries
New Prairie Press

Symphony in the Flint Hills Field Journal

Navigation

Symphony in the Flint Hills, Inc.

Follow this and additional works at: <https://newprairiepress.org/sfh>

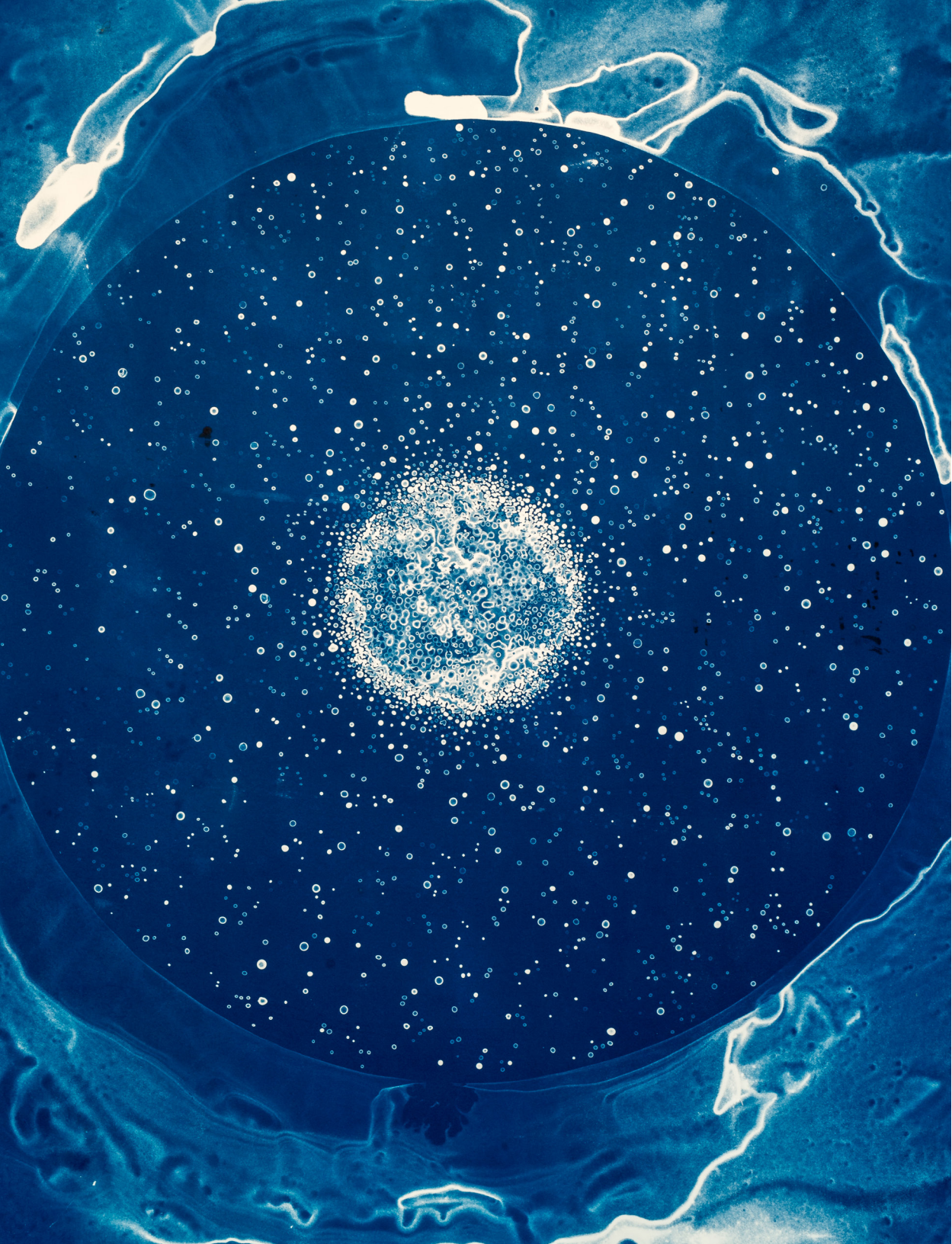
Recommended Citation

Symphony in the Flint Hills, Inc. (2019). "Navigation," *Symphony in the Flint Hills Field Journal*.
<https://newprairiepress.org/sfh/2019/navigation/1>

To order hard copies of the Field Journals, go to shop.symphonyintheflinthills.org.

The Field Journals are made possible in part with funding from the Fred C. and Mary R. Koch Foundation.

This Event is brought to you for free and open access by the Conferences at New Prairie Press. It has been accepted for inclusion in Symphony in the Flint Hills Field Journal by an authorized administrator of New Prairie Press. For more information, please contact cads@k-state.edu.



NAVIGATION

Too few people care about the stars...Old people know the stars and children love them...Stars are no longer regarded as useful, therefore they have been abandoned. A century ago people knew them better...Culture was given precedence over practicality...I find the old people can call the stars by name, while the young do not know them.

Annie Jump Cannon, 1924.

OPPOSITE PAGE

Globular Cluster, after Cecilia Payne, 2016 (detail)
Lia Halloran, courtesy of the artist and Luis De Jesus Los Angeles

According to ancient tradition the Osages (in their own language, the Wahzhazhe) came to earth from the stars. Perhaps they were the first to comprehend that we are all made of stardust. An understanding of the heavens was as essential to their survival on the open grasslands as it was to sailors on the vast sea. But once European settlers' prairie schooners rolled to a stop, the mariners of the Prairie turned their gazes toward the Farmer's Almanac and their noses to the grindstone. With no perceived useful purpose, the skies became the dominion of dreamers. But on the open prairie, it is only the vast sky that grounds us—and the North Star that guides us.



Flint Hills Milky Way
Harold Gaston